



# *Lectures in Literature via Durham University*

Free Public Lectures on Zoom

17:30 BST

Wednesday 19 August 2020

## **Romantic Wellbeing**



*Dr Amanda Blake Davis (University of Sheffield)*

### **'Unbodied Joy': Birds and Embodiment in Shelley and Keats**

The bodies of living birds in Keats and Shelley's poetry are cast off in favour of ethereal song in poems such as 'Ode to a Nightingale', composed in the presence of a living nightingale outside Keats' Hampstead home, and 'To a Skylark', in which Shelley glides between the ethereal and the material. This lecture will explore the Platonic implications of Keats and Shelley's vacillations between body and mind through their depictions of birds.

*Alex Hobday (University of Cambridge)*

### **The Happiness of the High-Wrought Mind:**

#### **The Autobiographical Pursuit of Happiness in Eighteenth-Century Literature**

'And, considering the question of human happiness, where, oh where does it reside? Has it taken up its abode with unconscious ignorance or with the high-wrought mind?' Broken-hearted and soon to be deserted by the father of her child, Mary Wollstonecraft writes these words in her autobiographical travelogue *Short Residence*. Such questions echoed throughout eighteenth-century culture. What is happiness? And how can we achieve it?

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